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PFIZER, MODERNA JABS POSE RISK TO HEART, WARNS F.D.A.

The US Food and Drug Administration on Friday warned of a rare risk of heart inflammation among people taking the jabs

THOSE AFFECTED ARE MOSTLY YOUNG MALES

The US drug regulator said after taking these Covid vaccines, users run the risk of getting inflammation of heart muscles (myocarditis) and of the outer lining of the heart (pericarditis). In the US, such inflammation cases post vaccination have been recorded more among young males. In most cases, the symptoms appeared within a week of taking the second dose

PALPITATION, FATIGUE COMMON SYMPTOMS

- The risk, however, is very low. About 1,200 cases of inflammation have been reported after 300 million people took these jabs
- There have been 309 cases of hospitalisations in the US due to vaccine-linked inflammation. Of this, 295 have been discharged
- Heart palpitation and fatigue are among the common symptoms

1.3 mn

PFIZER JABS TO BE AVAILABLE IN INDIA PER WEEK FROM SEPTEMBER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VIJAYAPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Centre to tweak policy to allow single-doctor centres to offer shots

Soon, you may get jab in your neighbourhood clinic

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

IN a bid to increase the reach of Covid vaccines and remove vaccine hesitancy especially among the rural populace, the Centre plans to tweak the vaccination policy to allow single-doctor clinics to offer the jabs.

"The proposal of permitting single-doctor clinics to carry out Covid19 vaccinations has been given in-principle approval after many states suggested this," said a senior official with the Union health ministry.

The official, who did not wish to be named, told TNIE that the move will allow people to access vaccines from their trusted doctor next door, who can help remove vaccine hesitancy which is emerging as an issue in many towns.

However, there are concerns about monitoring of adverse events following immunisation. "Detailed guidelines for it are being worked out," the official added.

Another source in the ministry said in some states, state aggregators have already started asking doctors practising independently to raise the demands, which will then be conveyed to vaccine makers via the Centre.

Welcoming the move, Girdhar J Gyani, director-general, Association of Healthcare Providers of India (a body of private hospitals), said: "It's a much-needed step as vaccination has now reached almost a saturation level in big cities while a large population in smaller towns is yet to get shots."

The government has been emphasising that it wants more private hospitals, especially those in far flung and remote areas and smaller ones, to come forward to take part in the vaccination drive. It has said that this scale-up is required to remove the regional inequity in access to vaccination.

Under the existing inoculation strategy, 25% of the total vaccines available in the country are to be procured by private hospitals and offered to recipients for ₹150 administrative cost plus the actual price of the vaccine per dose—while in government hospitals, jabs are to be administered free of cost.

However, in terms of actual vaccinations carried out so far, the role of private hospitals has remained quite limited and private hospitals only in cities in some states have been able to participate in a big way.

J&J's single-shot vaccine could be available in July

Johnson & Johnson's single-shot vaccine could be available in private hospitals by next month for about ₹2,000 per dose, according to the Association of Private Healthcare Providers in India | P9

TIME FOR CAUTION

With Delta+ worry, TAC says don't unlock in a hurry

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WITH the threat of Covid Delta-Plus surge looming and Maharashtra deciding to go slow with its unlocking, Karnataka's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has come out with a list of measures to be taken immediately. It has also advised the government not to hurry with relaxing the norms.

The Centre too has urged Karnataka, where two cases of Delta-Plus are seen, to take immediate containment measures, prevent crowds, conduct widespread testing and increase vaccine coverage on priority in districts where the variant has been detected.

TAC, which held a meeting on Saturday to discuss measures to contain Delta-Plus, advised the government to take follow-up action in districts, sources said. "After confirmation of the variant, a detailed epidemiological investigation shall be done by the district Rapid Response Team (RRT) under District Surveillance Officer (DSO) and the reports should be shared with the deputy commissioner, district expert committee and state Covid war room," the TAC suggested.

Keeping in mind that it takes one to two weeks to genome sequence the samples, the TAC has advised RRTs to investigate "the clinical status of Covid-positive person, whether he/she is admitted, under home isolation, recovered or died, etc. Also, they should find out if a Covid-negative test is warranted for such people after 14 days of recovery", said the TAC advisory. The teams are also expected to verify whether all contacts of the person tested positive for the variant were identified and tested on day 0 to day 7. CONTINUED ON: P4

Citizens wait in a queue at Dasappa Maternity Hospital, where a vaccination drive for 18+ was conducted, in Bengaluru on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Planning to open colleges by Aug: DyCM

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

TO resume offline classes at colleges and higher educational institutions by August, the State Government aims to administer at least one shot of Covid vaccination to all college-going students and teachers before July-end, said Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Higher Education Dr Ashwath Narayan.

In an exclusive interview to *TNSE*, he said a vaccination drive, "Marali Collegige" (back to college), will be launched in July under which all degree students will be vaccinated.

"The Dr Devi Shetty committee report has recommended opening of degree colleges first. We will vaccinate students and staff of these colleges on priority," he said.

The government has earmarked 20 lakh vaccinations for the drive. The plan was finalized after discussions with academic and health experts, he said. He explained that the government is planning a staggered reopening of classes. Students will have to produce vaccination certificates to college authorities once institutions reopen, he added. P4

KARNATAKA	JUNE 25	JUNE 26
Fresh cases	3,310	4,272
Recoveries	6,524	6,126
Deaths	114	115

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 25	JUNE 26
Fresh cases	51,667	48,698
Recoveries	64,527	64,818
Deaths	1,329	1,183

STATE LOGS 4K CASES IN 1 DAY

In what appears to be a clear indication of people flouting Covid norms, Karnataka on Saturday reported about 1,000 cases more than what it recorded on Friday. The state logged 4,272 fresh cases on Saturday compared with 3,310 cases the previous day. However, the positivity rate marginally dipped from 8.43% on Friday, to 8.40% on Saturday. Meanwhile, experts attribute the case increase to various factors. P4

'STRICT VIGIL AT STATE BORDERS'

Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi on Saturday said the government contemplates making it mandatory for people entering Karnataka by crossing the border to produce a Covid-negative report. Expressing concern over rising cases of the Delta+ variant in Maharashtra, he added that his department had been working on measures to ensure strict vigil across all checkposts on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border. P4

Special school principal held for sexual harassment

ENS @ Bengaluru

A 43-year-old principal of a school meant for specially challenged children in Dobbaspet has been arrested on charges of sexually harassing one of his students.

The incident took place on May 5, when the accused principal called a 21-year-old male student to his house and forced him to watch porn videos. The student revealed during a counselling session that he was harassed and based on his complaint, the principal was arrested on Friday.

The student was taken for counselling as the secretary of the school noticed a marked change in his behaviour. "The principal was interrogated and produced before court, which handed him over to judicial custody," a police officer said.

The principal's residence is situated on the school premises and he has been working with the school for the last eight years. There have been no complaints from other students so far, he said.

During interrogation, the principal confessed that he had harassed the student, the officer said.

Polls in mind, BJP seeks to change its narrative

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

WITH the disappointing West Bengal poll results still fresh in mind, senior BJP leaders met on Saturday to plan for elections coming up in five states early next year. Party chief J P Nadda on Saturday hosted senior ministers for a brainstorming session to chalk out a strategy for the upcoming elections, with the thrust being on stepping up the Covid vaccination drive to showcase achievement and managing the unrelenting farm agitation.

Leaders lament Covid's impact on brand Modi

There's a feeling within the party that the second wave of the pandemic has damaged the public perception of brand Modi. According to sources in the party, senior leaders have blamed the pandemic for the BJP's dismal performance in West Bengal

Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Narendra Singh Tomar and Nirmala Sitharaman took part in the deliberations with Nadda. The BJP chief subsequently held another brainstorming session with party vice presidents and national general secretaries to chalk out the plans for the elections-bound states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab.

It has been reliably learnt that the BJP will roll out senior ministers to begin touring districts in the poll-bound states soon with the aim to build the narratives in favour of the party on the basis of the achievements of the Central government and the respective state dispensations. The saffron outfit is worried as the farmers are not ready to stop their agitation against the Central government. Jat mobilisation against the BJP could hurt the prospects of the party in the crucial Uttar Pradesh elections.

The BJP is banking on Rajnath Singh, who's seen as a farmer leader within the party, to help counter farmers' anger. Besides western UP, the BJP is also staring at losing its ground in Punjab where the party's oldest ally Shiromani Akali Dal has switched sides to ally with the Bahujan Samajwadi Party.

"While the government is aiming to cover the eligible people with vaccination by December, party leaders stressed on the need to advance it to October so that there's enough time on hand to build the narrative in favour of Brand Modi, which had taken a hit due to the second wave of the pandemic, which cost the party dearly in the last phases of the polls in Bengal. Also, the farmers need something concrete from the Centre to calm them down ahead of the polls," sources said.

WITH THIS ISSUE

EXPRESS READ

Goa-bound Rajdhani Express derails, all passengers safe

Mumbai: A Goa-bound Rajdhani Express train from Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi, with 309 passengers on board, derailed inside a tunnel in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra early on Saturday, but nobody was injured in the incident, officials said.

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 25: **54,48,406 doses**

June 26: **58,10,378 doses**

TOTAL DOSES: 32,11,43,649

Nandini
Cheese
A blend of taste and deliciousness
Nandini
100% Natural
Made from Cow Milk
Processed Cheese Block
Available in 200 g, 500 g & 1 kg pack
Processed Cheese Cubes
Available in 200 g, 500 g & 1 kg pack
Processed Cheese Slice
Available in 100 g, 200 g & 750 g pack
Mozzarella Cheese Block
Available in 200 g & 1 kg pack
Mozzarella Cheese Shredded
Nandini Naturally Nutritious
Bamul
Bengaluru Co-operative Milk Union Ltd.,
www.bamulnandini.coop

ISRO CASE

Nambi held without proof, says D K Jain panel report

P RAMDAS @ Kochi

FORMER ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan was arrested by Kerala police in 1994 without any material or record to show his involvement in the 'espionage', according to the Justice D K Jain Committee report.

Like Narayanan's, the committee found the arrests of ISRO scientists B Sasikumaran and K Chandrasekharan, and labour contractor S K Sharma were also without any proof. The panel, which delved into the conspiracy angle in the espionage case, suggested a detailed investigation into the physical and mental torture of Nambi and Chandrasekharan by interrogators. The portion of the report, accessed by TNIE, is part of the FIR filed by the CBI before the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Thiruvananthapuram, on June 17.

Nambi Narayanan

The case, which had made headlines in 1994, pertained to allegations of transfer of certain confidential documents on India's space programme to foreign countries by two scientists and four others, including two Maldivians. Citing the report, the seventh paragraph of the FIR stated the undocumented interrogation of Maldivian Mariyam Rashida was illegal. The report also cited "deliberate leaking of information to the press by the investigating agency to create a narrative implicating the scientists".

The panel also mentioned the representation by Narayanan before it alleged that during the course of his arrest and interrogation he was pressured by the interrogators to falsely implicate his immediate bosses Muthunayagam and U R Rao of ISRO in the matter. Narayanan had also informed the panel "there was deliberate attempt to remove him from the development of Cryogenic technology and there was a design to harm the ISRO cryogenic technology project".

> There was an attempt to remove me... there was a design to harm the ISRO cryogenic tech project
> Nambi Narayanan to panel